

Superb
Results
from all
students



Summary of Board Meeting #15 Tuesday, June 14, 2005

- A. **O Canada** – District Video.
- B. **Roll Call:** (6:00 p.m.) – Trustee Fleming was absent.
- C. **Communications from the Board Chairman**

The chairman advised that the following four district teachers have received *The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Certificate of Achievement*:

- Craig Brenan – Victoria School for the Performing and Visual Arts
- Frances Burke – Old Scona Academic High School
- Annie Foster – McNally High School
- Bill Howe – Victoria School for the Performing and Visual Arts

- D. **Communications from the Superintendent of Schools** – None.
- E. **Minutes:**
1. Board Meeting #14 – May 24, 2005 - Approved as printed.

F. **Focus on Student Achievement**

2. Focus on Achievement – Ross Sheppard High School
- Received for information.

G. **Reports:**

3. Report #13 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held May 31, 2005)

Approved recommendations re:

- Principal designations
- Central services reappointment of staff

Report #15 of the Conference Committee (From the Meeting Held June 13, 2005)

Approved recommendations re principal designations

4. Board Review of 2005-2008 Plans and the 2005-2006 Budget
- A. Discussion of 2005-2008 Plans and the 2005-2006 Budget
- Discussion of and questions arising from school budget reviews
 - Elementary Schools
 - Elementary/Junior High Schools
 - Junior High Schools
 - Senior High Schools
 - Discussion of and questions arising from central services budget reviews
- a) Trustees noted the following concerns raised during the school budget reviews:
- inadequacy of PO & M funding
 - impact of increased staffing costs
- b) Trustee Esslinger noted that the intent of the district priority *to achieve high standards of citizenship, conduct, safety and well-being of students and staff* should be clarified for the schools since student well-being is being interpreted differently at the school level. Schools need to show what is being done in this area in their budget documents.
- c) Trustee Hansen also believed that a better job must be done in communicating the intent of the district's priority *to improve achievement of all students in core subjects with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy*.
- d) Trustee Keiver noted that clarification is required regarding where school lunch fees and the payment for the lunchroom supervisor should be indicated in the budget documents.
- e) Trustee Gibeault suggested that, in future, the school profiles include a statement to help parents understand the investment in public education; for example, *The average public investment in students at X School is \$___ (the amount could be the school budget divided by the school enrolment)*.
- f) Trustee Colburn also agreed that the information provided to parents and the community about the budget must be understandable. We must clearly identify what our financial concerns are.
- g) Trustee Nicholson also noted that the public needs to be made aware that the increase of transportation fees for those students where a school has been closed or a school has not been built (from \$7 to \$14) was required because of a projected \$1 million deficit in the transportation budget.

- h) Trustee Colburn noted that, while Alberta Education has provided additional funding targeted for smaller class sizes, the inadequacy of general funding will result in a reduction of 40 teaching staff.

B. Trustee Motions for Amendments to the 2005-2006 Budget – None.

C. Consideration of Trustee Motions to the 2005-2006 Budget – None.

5. Approval of the 2005-2006 Expenditures Budget

The 2005-2006 expenditures budget in the amount of \$636,021,000 was approved.

6. Curriculum Addition - Locally Developed Course: Technical Math & Science 35 (2005)

Approved recommendation.

7. Edmonton Public Schools' *Three Year Education Plan 2005-2008*

a) Approved recommendation.

b) Trustee Hansen referred to page 22 and suggested that an explanation be included regarding how the results are calculated by cohorts.

c) Trustee Gibson suggested that examples of some of the policy initiatives that have been undertaken in the district be included in the document under the strategies such as:

- **Outcome 1.2: Schools are Safe and Caring** (page 14) – include mention of the judicious use of records checks
- **Outcome 1.3: Children at risk have their needs addressed through effective programs and supports** (page 15) – we should qualify the strategies with a note *subject to resources provided by other agencies*
- **Outcome 2.1: Learners demonstrate high standards** (page 18) – include in the strategy regarding Supporting Teaching and Learning mention of the use of instructional leadership teams, research based best practices, triads, inter-visitations and targeted professional development.
- **Outcome 2.2: Learners Complete Programs** (page 19) – include strategies we use in the district such as alternatives to providing a zero mark.
- **Outcome 3.2: The jurisdiction demonstrates leadership and continuous improvement** (page 29) – reference new policy regarding the value we place in teaching qualifications such as subject content knowledge and mastery of teaching as a discipline itself.

d) Trustees concurred with adding Trustees Gibson's suggestions to the final document submitted to Alberta Education.

- e) Trustee Colburn referred to page 26 and asked how many people the *Keynotes* newsletter and *Partners in Education* website reach.

8. Ten-Year Facilities Plan (2006-2015)

- a) Approved recommendation.
- b) Trustee Gibeault referred to page 13 of the report and made the following suggestions:
- Clarify what we mean by “right-sizing” if we mean demolishing then this is what should be stated in the documents.
 - Include the possibility of future possible school closures in the documents.
- c) Trustee Gibson referred to page 15 and questioned whose perspective is being considered with the use of the phrase “decreased sense of community”. A student’s sense of community might be different.
- d) Trustee Keiver referred to the statement on page 3 of the document *In addition, the recently instituted Class Size Initiative from Alberta Education has changed the configuration of learning spaces in Edmonton Public Schools* and suggested that this be emphasized for the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure so we are not complaining that we need to make classrooms smaller but that there are some unforeseen consequences.
- e) Trustee Keiver referred to the statement on page 13 of the document *Eighteen per cent of the district’s elementary students live in neighbourhoods without a local elementary school.* and asked what previous years statistics were.
- f) Trustee Nicholson referred to page 9 of the report and suggested adding to the third bullet of implications of 2.3 Residential Growth Patterns reference to securing means of providing new schools in older areas of the city with a school that has been demolished (as the Separate Board has done).
- g) Trustee Esslinger referred to last sentence of 4.1 on page 19 of the report and suggested rather than using the word “aggressive” using the word “measured” or “reasoned”.
- h) Trustee Gibson suggested that the administration include both the confirmed census and the more current unconfirmed census from the City of Edmonton in the document.

9. District Three-Year Capital Plan 2006-2009

- a) Approved recommendation.
- b) Trustee Keiver suggested indicating on the maps in the document that grade configuration of schools are subject to change.

10. 2005 Major Maintenance Plan

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Nicholson urged the board chairman to continue to make the case to the provincial government about obtaining non-targeted funding for capital construction and maintenance funding.

11. Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

- a) Received for information.
- b) Trustee Keiver referred to TT #72 (Provide information on possible ways to establish and administer a district subsidy to assist financially challenged families with transportation) and asked the following information be provided:
 - a dollar estimate of how much it would cost to administer a bus pass subsidy.
 - A detailed accounting by schools receiving a high needs allocation regarding how much of the high needs allocation is being spent on non-paid transportation fees.
 - A detailed accounting of district schools that don't receive a high needs allocation with respect to how much is spent on non-paid transportation fees.

H. Committee and Board Representative Reports

• **Community Relations Activities**

Trustee Gibson advised that he had participated, as a board representative, in a consultation organized by Alberta Education, Alberta Advanced Education and Alberta Human Resources and Employment on Monday. This was one of the early consultations regarding review of the Career and Guidance Policy and program implementation.

I. Comments from the Public and Staff Group Representatives

None.

J. Trustee and Board Requests for Information

1. Trustee Esslinger requested that a report be prepared discussing the feasibility of incorporating a long-term space utilization plan in the next the 10-Year Facilities Plan. She asked that the feasibility report address the criteria and the principles of reviewing and rationalizing district space utilization including consideration of such topics as long-term viability, leasing options, community use options, the right-sizing of schools and potential school closures within sectors of the city and that the report would be aligned with the principles of the 10-Year Facilities Plan (2006-2016).
2. Trustee Colburn referred to TT#59 (Provide a report regarding the number of librarians, physical education teachers and counsellors employed by Edmonton Public Schools....) and asked that the following information be provided:
 - Clarification of training, job description for the 3 categories of library associated personnel – Learning Resources, Library Technicians and Library Technicians E
 - Identify the numbers of counsellors and library personnel assigned at the elementary, junior and senior high levels for 1990-91, 1996-97 and 2004-05.
 - A comparison of library technicians, learning resource and counsellors in adjoining school districts.

K. Notices of Motion – None.

L. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. - Board

M. Duration of Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.